

# An Interview With Rene Bergh Zaval

An Oral History conducted and edited by  
Robert D. McCracken

Nye County Town History Project  
Nye County, Nevada  
Tonopah  
1990

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Irene "Rene" Rogers Berg Zaval  
c. 1931



Benjamin and Grace Anderson Rogers with children Pete and Irene "Rene"  
c. 1917

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## PREFACE

The Nye County TOWn History Project (NCTHP) engages in interviewing people who can provide firsthand descriptions of the individuals, events, and places that give history its substance. The products of this research are the tapes of the interviews and their transcriptions.

In themselves, oral history interviews are not history. However, they often contain valuable primary source material, as useful in the process of historiography as the written sources to which historians have customarily turned. Verifying the accuracy of all of the statements made in the course of an interview would require more time and money than the NCTHP's operating budget permits. The program can vouch that the statements were made, but it cannot attest that they are free of error. Accordingly, oral histories should be read with the same prudence that the reader exercises when consulting government records, newspaper accounts, diaries, and other sources of historical information.

It is the policy of the NCTHP to produce transcripts that are as close to verbatim as possible, but some alteration of the text is generally both unavoidable and desirable. When human speech is captured in print the result can be a morass of tangled syntax, false starts, and incomplete sentences, sometimes verging on incoherency. The type font contains no symbols for the physical gestures and the diverse vocal modulations that are integral parts of communication through speech. Experience shows that totally verbatim transcripts are often largely unreadable and therefore a waste of the resources expended in their production. While keeping alterations to a minimum the NCTHP will, when preparing a text:

- a. generally delete false starts, redundancies and the uhs, ahs and other noises with which speech is often sprinkled;
- b. occasionally compromise language that would be confusing to the reader in unaltered form;
- c. rarely shift a portion of a transcript to place it in its proper context;
- d. enclose in [brackets] explanatory information or words that were not uttered but have been added to render the text intelligible; and
- e. make every effort to correctly spell the names of all individuals and places, recognizing that an occasional word maybe misspelled because no authoritative source on its correct spelling was found.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As project director, I would like to express my deep appreciation to those who participated in the Nye County Town History Project (NCTHP). It was an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to obtain oral histories from so many wonderful individuals. I was welcomed into many homes--in many cases as a stranger--and was allowed to share in the recollection of local history. In a number of cases I had the opportunity to interview Nye County residents whom I have known and admired since I was a teenager; these experiences were especially gratifying. I thank the residents throughout Nye County and Nevada--too numerous to mention by name--who provided assistance, information, and photographs. They helped make the successful completion of this project possible.

Appreciation goes to Chairman Joe S. Garcia, Jr., Robert N. "Bobby" Revert, and Patricia S. Mankins, the Nye County commissioners who initiated this project. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Revert, in particular, showed deep interest and unyielding support for the project from its inception. Thanks also go to current commissioners Richard L. Carver and Barbara J. Raper, who have since joined Mr. Revert on the board and who have continued the project with enthusiastic support. Stephen T. Bradhurst, Jr., planning consultant for Nye County, gave unwavering support and advocacy of the project within Nye County and before the State of Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office and the United States Department of Energy; both entities provided funds for this project. Thanks are also extended to Mr. Bradhurst for his advice and input regarding the conduct of the research and for constantly serving as a sounding board when methodological problems were worked out. This project would never have become a reality without the enthusiastic support of the Nye County commissioners and Mr. Bradhurst.

Jean Charney served as administrative assistant, editor, indexer, and typist throughout the project; her services have been indispensable. Louise Terrell provided considerable assistance in transcribing many of the oral histories; Barbara Douglass also transcribed a number of interviews. Transcribing, typing, editing, and indexing were provided at various times by Jodie Hanson, Alice Levine, Mike Green, Cynthia Tremblay, and Jean Stoess. Jared Charney contributed essential word processing skills. Maire Hayes, Michelle Starika, Anita Coryell, Jodie Hanson, Michelle Welsh, Lindsay Schumacher, and Shena Salzmann shouldered the herculean task of proofreading the oral histories. Gretchen Loeffler and Bambi McCracken assisted in numerous secretarial and clerical duties. Phillip Earl of the Nevada Historical Society contributed valuable support and criticism throughout the project, and Tan King at the Oral History Program of the University of Nevada at Reno served as a consulting oral historian. Much deserved thanks are extended to all these persons.

All material for the NCTHP was prepared with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy, Grant No. DE-FG08-89NV10820. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE.

--Robert D. McCracken  
Tonopah, Nevada  
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## INTRODUCTION

Historians generally consider the year 1890 as the end of the American frontier. By then, most of the western United States had been settled, ranches and farms developed, communities established, and roads and railroads constructed. The mining boomtowns, based on the lure of overnight riches from newly developed lodes, were but a memory.

Although Nevada was granted statehood in 1864, examination of any map of the state from the late 1800s shows that while much of the state was mapped and its geographical features named, a vast region--stretching from Belmont south to the Las Vegas meadows, comprising most of Nye County-- remained largely unsettled and unmapped. In 1890 most of southcentral Nevada remained very much a frontier, and it continued to be for at least another twenty years.

The great mining booms at Tonopah (1900), Goldfield (1902), and Rhyolite (1904) represent the last major flowering of what might be called the Old West in the United States. Consequently, southcentral Nevada, notably Nye County, remains close to the American frontier; closer, perhaps, than any other region of the American West. In a real sense, a significant part of the frontier can still be found in southcentral Nevada. It exists in the attitudes, values, lifestyles, and memories of area residents. The frontier-like character of the area also is visible in the relatively undisturbed quality of the natural environment, most of it essentially untouched by human hands.

A survey of written sources on southcentral Nevada's history reveals same material from the boomtown period from 1900 to about 1915, but very little on the area after around 1920. The volume of available sources varies from town to town: A fair amount of literature, for instance, can be found covering Tonopah's first two decades of existence, and the town has had a newspaper continuously since its first year. In contrast, relatively little is known about the early days of Gabbs, Round Mountain, Manhattan, Beatty, Amargosa Valley, and Pahrump. Gabbs's only newspaper was published intermittently between 1974 and 1976. Round Mountain's only newspaper, the Round Mountain Nugget, was published between 1906 and 1910. Manhattan had newspaper coverage for most of the years between 1906 and 1922. Amargosa Valley has never had a newspaper; Beatty's independent paper folded in 1912. Pahrump's first newspaper did not appear until 1971. All six communities received only spotty coverage in the newspapers of other communities after their own papers folded, although Beatty was served by the Beatty Bulletin, which was published as a supplement to the Goldfield News between 1947 and 1956. Consequently, most information on the history of southcentral Nevada after 1920 is stored in the memories of individuals who are still living.

Aware of Nye County's close ties to our nation's frontier past, and recognizing that few written sources on local history are available, especially after about 1920, the Nye County Commissioners initiated the Nye County Town History Project (NCTHP). The NCTHP represents an effort to systematically collect and preserve information on the history of Nye County. The centerpiece of the NCTHP is a large set of interviews conducted with individuals who had knowledge of local history. Each interview was recorded, transcribed, and then edited lightly to preserve the language and speech patterns of those interviewed. All oral history interviews have been printed on acid-free paper and bound and archived in Nye County libraries, Special Collections in the James R. Dickinson Library at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and at



other archival sites located throughout Nevada. The interviews vary in length and detail, but together they form a never-before-available composite picture of each community's life and development. The collection of interviews for each community can be compared to a bouquet: Each flower in the bouquet is unique--some are large, others are small--yet each adds to the total image. In sum, the interviews provide a composite view of community and county history, revealing the flow of life and events for a part of Nevada that has heretofore been largely neglected by historians.

Collection of the oral histories has been accompanied by the assembling of a set of photographs depicting each community's history. These pictures have been obtained from participants in the oral history interviews and other present and past Nye County residents. In all, more than 1,000 photos have been collected and carefully identified. Complete sets of the photographs have been archived along with the oral histories.

On the basis of the oral interviews as well as existing written sources, histories have been prepared for the major communities in Nye County. These histories also have been archived.

The town history project is one component of a Nye County program to determine the socioeconomic impacts of a federal proposal to build and operate a nuclear waste repository in southcentral Nye County. The repository, which would be located inside a mountain (Yucca Mountain), would be the nation's first, and possibly only, permanent disposal site for high-level radioactive waste. The Nye County Board of County Commissioners initiated the NCTHP in 1987 in order to collect information on the origin, history, traditions, and quality of life of Nye County communities that maybe impacted by a repository. If the repository is constructed, it will remain a source of interest for hundreds, possibly thousands, of years to come, and future generations will likely want to know more about the people who once resided near the site. In the event that government policy changes and a high-level nuclear waste repository is not constructed in Nye County, material compiled by the NCTHP will remain for the use and enjoyment of all.

—R.D.M.

This is Robert McCracken talking to Rene Zaval at her home on the Berg Ranch, Smoky Valley, Nevada, January 18, 1990.

## CHAPTER ONE

RM: Rene, why don't we start by you telling me your name as it reads on your birth certificate.

RZ: Well, my maiden name is Irene Catherine Rogers.

RM: And could you tell me your birthdate and your birthplace.

RZ: November 13, 1914; I was born in Round Mountain, Nevada.

RM: Could you tell me your father's name?

RZ: Benjamin Rogers.

RM: And do you know where and when he was born?

RZ: He was born at the R.O. Ranch, right up the valley, in June of 1885.

RM: What was your mother's maiden name?

RZ: Her name was Grace Anderson.

RM: And do you know when and where she was born?

RZ: She was born in Belmont, Nevada, January 15, 1898.

RM: Tell me a little bit about your father.

RZ: Well, he was born up there at the R.O. where his mother and father lived and when he was just a kid he started taking care of the cattle - they had a lot of cattle - working right with his brothers and his father. He lived there until 1926, and then he bought the old Moore place down here.

RM: That's a ranch?

RZ: That's what they called it then. Johnny Moore owned it and he bought it from him. It's the Wine Glass Ranch now.

RM: So he left his home ranch and bought his own ranch?

RZ: In later years, yes. He had some brothers and they just sort of managed the ranch after he was gone.

RM: Let's see, you would have been 12 when you moved down there?

RZ: That's right.

RM: Do you recall how big it was?

RZ: I think it was around 700 acres.

RM: Do you recall what he paid for it by any chance?

RZ: Oh gosh. I just wouldn't have any idea.

RM: How long did your father own the ranch?

RZ: Well, he passed away after about 4 years and we kept on running the place; then my brother and I sold it to Carl Hass in 1955 and he's had it ever since.

RM: And it's called the Wine Glass Ranch now?

RZ: Well, it was called the Circle 8 when we got it. We had the R.O. brand up at the R.O. Ranch and then when we moved down there we got a brand of our own, and it was shaped like a wine glass.

RM: Oh, I see. And it's still known as that.

RZ: Yes.

RM: I see. Now how did your Grandfather Rogers acquire the ranch?

RZ: He and my grandmother lived at Reese River when they were real young people. And then they moved over here and sort of homesteaded that place and they lived there.

RM: I wonder what year that was?

RZ: I think it was in about 1870.

RM: And who did your Grandfather Rogers marry?

RZ: He married a lady by the name of Catherine Rahe, who came from Germany

RM: And he met her over in Reese River?

RZ: Yes.

RM: What was her family doing there, do you know? Were they mining?

RZ: Oh, they had a ranch too, of some kind - a little property there.

RM: What did your grandfather do over in Reese River?

RZ: They just had a ranch.

RM: Was it his father's ranch?

RZ: Well, no. I don't think his father was ever in this country. He came from France.

RM: OK. And he met your grandmother in Reese River and then they homesteaded the R.O. Ranch.

RZ: Right.

RM: How much did he homestead, do you know?

RZ: It was just a few acres.

RM: And did he and your grandmother live out their lives on the ranch?

RZ: Yes, they did.

RM: When did your grandfather pass away?

RZ: Oh, about 1920 I would say. And then my grandmother passed away shortly after he did.

RM: And what happened to the ranch then?

RZ: My father and his brothers just ran it.

RM: What was your grandfather's first name?

RZ: William.

RM: How many brothers and sisters did your father have?

RZ: There were 6 of them in the family.

RM: Can you name them?

RZ: Yes. Lena was the oldest, and then my father Ben was the next, and then Willy was the next, and then Emma, and then Harry and then Katie.

RM: And your father left in about '26 to move onto the Circle 8 Ranch.

RZ: Right.

RM: What had happened to the other children?

RZ: Well, Lena moved back to Kansas. She didn't like the ranch so she and her husband, Jack Stebbins, moved back there.

RM: I see. Stebbins was in on the discovery of the Round Mountain, wasn't he?

RZ: Right.

RM: And his daughter, Laura, was the one who was chasing the cow or something?

RZ: Yes. And she [became] Mrs. Darrough.

RM: Do you know much about Jack Stebbins?

RZ: Not too much, really. I just was never around him. The only time was just a little bit after he married Lena. They went back to Kansas and she never returned here, but Jack would come back sometimes in the summertime to visit. He would stay down with us once in a while at the Wine Glass or up at the R.O. with the rest of the folks.

RM: Do you know where in Kansas they went?

RZ: Ellis. I still hear from his son Johnny. He still lives in Ellis and we correspond and talk on the phone. And he also had a daughter. Her name is Florence Bauer; she lives in Mississippi.

RM: OK. Your father was the next child, wasn't he?

RZ: Yes, and then Willy was the next one and he stayed up at the ranch and worked; Emma also stayed there. They ran the R.O.

RM: Did either Willy or Emma ever marry?

RZ: No, they never married. And then Harry was the next one and he left the ranch and went to Oakland, California, and started a tire shop down there. He married a nurse and they lived

there for years. And Katie also left the ranch and she married a fellow by the name of Karl Berg; he's related to us, too.

RM: Now, Karl Berg would have been . . .

RZ: Do you know Skook?

RM: Yes.

RZ: Well, he was Skook's uncle. And then they moved to Is Angeles and started a business down there and would come home once in a while in the summertime.

RM: Then how long did Willy and Emma live on the R.O?

RZ: Well, Willy passed away in '29 and Emma continued to stay there and then she sold the ranch to Carl Hass, the one who bought the Wine Glass down here. He worked for her up there for quite a while.

RM: I see. He was a hand there and then he purchased it from her?

RZ: Yes. And then she moved to Round Mountain and lived up there until she passed away.

RM: When did she pass away?

RZ: It must have been about 1950, I would say.

RM: Then did Carl Hass buy the Wine Glass or the R.O. first?

RZ: Oh, he bought the R.O. first and then he bought the Wine Glass in later years.

RM: The Wine Glass and the R.O. are not together, are they? The Darrough Ranch is in between?

RZ: Oh yes. The R.O. is up there and then this is the Berg ranch.

RM: And then you've got the Darroughs' ranch. And then, what's the next ranch going south?

RZ: That is the Wine Glass.

RM: Does Hass still own those ranches?

RZ: Well, he sold the R.O. a long time ago; of course, he still owns the Wine Glass Ranch.

R: Do you know who he sold the R.O. to?

RZ: I can't remember.

RM: Why did they call it the R.O.?

RZ: Because my grandfather's name was Rogers and they just took the first 2 letters - R.O. It has been sold several times since then. I think Carl sold it to Tau Denman, and then Zimmermans owned it until last year, I guess it was. And then they sold out to a company in California.

RM: When you were living on the R.O. as a child was it a big operation?

RZ: It was just a family ranch and pretty small, but it has enlarged a lot in the past years.

RM: The different owners have added to it?

RZ: Yes.

RM: I understand they graze clear down in the valley west of Tonopah - the San Antonio Valley.

RZ: Oh yes; way down there. They sure do.

RM: Did the different owners acquire the grazing rights for all that land down there over the years?

RZ: Yes. Well, when my dad owned the ranch he owned the grazing rights clear down to Millers and he ran cattle down there.

RM: So it was a big operation?

RZ: Well, I won't say it was a big operation, but he had quite a few cattle. He would drive the cattle down there in the fall - it'd take about 4 days to drive them down (he'd have about 4 cowboys). My mother and I would take the truck with food and bedding and things like that and we'd camp out at night and they'd have to watch the cattle. Then he would get a man to stay down and take care of them and pump water for the winter months.

RM: And where did he pump the water?

RZ: At Millers.

RM: So there were cattle grazing right at Millers.

RZ: Oh yes - there were cattle all around that area.

RM: How big would the herd be that you would take down there?

RZ: Well, I'd say around 800 head.

RM: And that was their winter pasture down there, and then the summer pasture was up here?

RZ: Then they would bring them back up in the spring as they still do.

RM: And where did they graze in the spring and summer?

RZ: They'd put them up in the mountains - up TWIn River. We owned the grazing permit up Twin River for a long time and they still own it.

RM: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

RZ: I have one brother.

RM: Was he older or younger?

RZ: Older. He lives in Fallon.

RM: Is his name Pete Rogers?

RZ: Right.

RM: Oh, OK. I've heard of him. How much older is he than you?

RZ: A couple of years.

RM: Did he stay in the ranching business?

RZ: No, he worked for the Forest Service over in Reese River first and then they moved to Fallon and they had a trailer court there for a while. Then they sold that and he went to work at the Hawthorne ammunition depot and he worked there until he retired. (He's retired now.)

RM: Could you tell me a little bit about what life was like when you were growing up on the R.O. Ranch?

RZ: Well, it was sure different than it is now. We had a nice comfortable house. It had, let's see, 4 or 5 rooms in it - 2 bedrooms. And 2 wood stoves - we had to get our wood in the wintertime. And we had radios with batteries, because we didn't have electricity in those days. And we had kerosene lamps and . . .

RM: Did you have indoor plumbing at all?



RZ: No. We'd carry our buckets of water in. We had wells and that's the way we did it. We had our milkhouse to keep our milk in because we always milked cows. And we had chickens. It was just a nice comfortable place.

RM: Is the house still there?

RZ: No. Not the one we lived in; they tore it down in later years. I think they moved part of it down to the Wine Glass. But the big old house stands there. They may use it for a cook shack now - I don't know - but my aunt lived in that house. And then we lived right up above her a little ways in our smaller house. But it was a real large home and I don't think there's much left of it. It's a brick house.

RM: Did your grandfather and your grandmother build it?

RZ: Yes, they built it.

RM: Were any other there houses there?

RZ: There was a storeroom and a milkhouse and a big huge barn and a blacksmith shop and a bunkhouse, too.

RM: Were there a lot of trees on the place?

RZ: Yes, there were quite a few trees around. Did you have gardens and things like that in the summer?

RZ: We sure did. All the ranchers had gardens.

RM: How did you get around? Did you have an automobile by then or was it horse and buggy?

RZ: My mother and father traveled with a horse and buggy for years, but we had a car. My father always had a car.

RM: How would you describe your father's character?

RZ: Oh, he was a great guy. He was a hard worker, too. And as far as I was concerned he was a great father to us. And he and my am got along just great.

RM: How would you describe your mother?

RZ: She was happy-go-lucky. She was a Swede and just a real happy person.

RM: Was she a small woman or a large woman?

RZ: No, she was pretty good size - just husky.

RM: Was your father a small man or a big man?

RZ: He was a big man.

RM: How tall do you think he was?

RZ: Oh, a little bit over 6 feet.

RM: What would he weigh in at in his prime, do you think?

RZ: Oh Bob, I would say 180 or 185.

RM: And how tall was your mother?

RZ: She was a little bit shorter, but she was tall for a woman.

RM: Would you describe the kind of life that your mother lived? I'm interested in how women lived on the ranches in those days.

RZ: Well they worked hard; I'll say that.

RM: What were some of the things that she did?

RZ: She washed clothes with a washboard . . .

RM: What kind of soap did she use?

RZ: They made their own soap, Bob, out of lye. It was pretty hard on the hands but they still used it all the time. And . . . oh, she did a lot of cooking and baking and then there were a lot of Indian camps in this valley at that time. We had some Indians living right up above us, above the road on the west side. They had their own camp there and the Indian ladies would help my mom and then the men would work for my father.

RM: Do you remember any of the Indian's names?

RZ: One of the Indian ladies was named Birdie and the other was Dora.

RM: Do you remember their last name?

RZ: They didn't have a last name. And the man's name was Bisk. That's a funny name, but that's what his name was.

RM: How big was the Indian camp on your place?

RZ: Oh, it was small. They just had, maybe, a 3-room shack. It was just one family.

RM: Where were the other Indian camps in the valley?

RZ: They all had Indian camps at the upper end of the valley.

RM: Like where?

RZ: Oh, at the Millett ranch.

RM: Was that a big camp or a small one like yours?

RZ: Oh, no. Just small ones. The only big Indian camp was at Round Mountain.

RM: There was an Indian camp at Round Mountain. I'll be darned.

RZ: Yes. Right up above the town.

RM: East of the town.

RZ: It'd be kind of northeast. A lot of Indians lived up there - maybe 25 or 30 - and the kids went to school there.

RM: Were there Indian children at your ranch?

RZ: Yes.

RM: Did they go to school?

RZ: Yes. They went to school with my brother and me. In fact, that's how we kept the school going for a little while, because we had to have 5 kids to start a school and to keep it going at that time.

RM: So you had a school on your ranch?

RZ: Yes, we had a school at our ranch. There was my brother and me and 2 Indian kids and then my uncle came to stay with us and he was just 2 years older than my brother and he went to school with us there, too.

RM: What was your uncle's name?

RZ: His name was Alvin Anderson. He was my mother's youngest brother.

## CHAPTER TWO

RM: Tell me about your mother's life in Belmont. Do you recall her talking about that at all?

RZ: Yes. She was born in Belmont and her mother's name was Catherine Anderson and her father's name was Charlie.

RM: And what was his occupation?

RZ: Well, I don't know what he did in Belmont. I think he worked in a mine right out of Belmont for a little while. And then when my mother was 9 years old they moved over to Moore's Creek and he got cattle.

RM: Did he have the more station house there?

RZ: No.

RM: Am I thinking of the same place?

RZ: Well, there's Moore's Creek there, but his place was Anderson Creek. It was just this side a little bit. And he had cattle and then he went to mining there. You'd never believe the work that he did over there in that mine.

RM: Do you remember the mine's name?

RZ: The Jumping Jack. In fact, we still own it. There are people who are buying it now.

RM: What kind of a mine was it?

RZ: Gold. Grandpa Anderson did an awful lot of work there. One of his cousins helped him and it's amazing the work they did with a pick and shovel.

RM: Did he do pretty well?

RZ: Yes. He did pretty well, I guess, with that and his cattle, but I never knew him. He died right after my brother was born.

RM: What about your Grandmother Anderson?

RZ: Well, she kept on living there for a while, and by that time my mom was living at the R.O. So my grandmother left [Anderson Creek] and went to different places and cooked at boardinghouses and . . .

RM: Oh, I see. What were some of the places where she cooked?

RZ: Down at Rhyolite and Weepah and down at Silver Peak.

RM: Did you know her?

RZ: Oh yes. We used to go down and see her once in a while.

RM: At Rhyolite?

RZ: Yes, and also Weepah and at the last place she worked, Silver Peak, at the boardinghouse there. She was quite a cook. And then she got kind of sick so then she came and spent the rest of her life with us.

RM: At the Wine Glass?

RZ: Yes.

RM: What was Rhyolite like when you would go and visit her?

RZ: Oh, it was just a little old mining town.

RM: It wasn't a ghost town?

RZ: It was; there were few people there. But she was still cooking for a few people and they always had somebody there to watch the place. It was just an interesting old town.

RM: Were there any buildings left in town by then?

RZ: There were quite a few old houses. I don't guess there are very many left at all anymore, are there? I haven't been there for years.

RM: Yes; there's virtually nothing; a few ruins. Do you recall your trips to Rhyolite? I mean, was it an adventure getting down there?

RZ: Yes. It was an adventure going anyplace outside of from one ranch to the other around here because we didn't go much.

RM: What about your Grandmother Anderson?

RZ: Well, she kept on living there for a while, and by that time my nun was living at the R.O. So my grandmother left [Anderson Creek] and went to different places and cooked at boardinghouses and . . .

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RZ: There were quite a few old houses. I don't guess there are very many left at all anymore, are there? I haven't been there for years.

RM: Yes; there's virtually nothing; a few ruins. Do you recall your trips to Rhyolite? I mean, was it an adventure getting down there?

RZ: Yes. It was an adventure going anyplace outside of from one ranch to the other around here because we didn't go much.

RM: What was traveling like?

RZ: We just always had a big old touring car.

RM: Do you remember what kind it was.

RZ: A Hupmobile - do you remember those?

RM: I've heard the name.

RZ: You wouldn't remember them because you're too young. And then our dad would get an Oldsmobile.

RM: How many brothers and sisters did your mother have?

RZ: Ten; it was just a huge family.

RM: Did those children stay in the area?

RZ: No, when they got older they all left.

RM: Your mother was the only one who stayed in the area?

RZ: Well, the second sister - her name was Mary - lived in Round Mountain for quite a few years and her husband, Albert May, worked there at the mine.

But there was a big family of them and Grandma would have the babies right at home.

RM: In Belmont or wherever she was living?

RZ: Yes. And she always had good luck outside of one - little Margaret. She passed away shortly after she was born. She was sick but the rest of them all were healthy.

RM: Who helped deliver the babies in those days?

RZ: Her mother - Grandma McCann.

RM: And she knew how to do that?

RZ: Oh yes. They were trained, I suppose. They did enough of it. You know, a lot of the old-timers never went to [a hospital].

RM: Now, Grandma McCann was your mother's . . .

RZ: My mother's grandmother.

RM: On her mother's side?

RZ: Yes.

RM: How did women take care of babies in the early '20s, before the days of disposable diapers?

RZ: They made diapers out of flour sacks and sugar sacks and things like that.

RM: What about washing them? It must have been a real ordeal, especially in the winter?

RZ: Oh yes, it was a chore. It sure was. It was a chore washing them but on nice days they'd hang them outside and then on bad days they always had clotheslines in on the porch and sometimes even in the house where they'd hang the clothes. Usually they had plenty of heat from the big old wood stoves.

RM: Women breast-fed in those days, didn't they?

RZ: They sure did.

RM: Was there any rule of thumb about when babies were started on solid foods or given foods besides breast milk?

RZ: No, I don't think so. I guess they just did it when they figured the babies were ready.

RM: What about keeping the babies warm in the winter?

RZ: Oh, they had a lot of blankets.

RM: What kind of clothes did the baby wear?

RZ: They bought clothes for them. Not that they had anything fancy or anything, but they always had clothes. My nother made clothes too.

RM: What did they do when the little babies got coughs and colds and things like that (as babies do a lot)?

RZ: They had their own remedies. I can remember my grandma making mustard plasters and putting them on their chests when they had bad colds. And then they'd make an onion syrup that they'd give them for coughs. And they just did their own thing.

RM: I remember being afraid of mustard plasters. I never had one, so I don't know why I had that fear.

RZ: They could easily burn the person.

RM: Do you know how to make a mustard plaster?



RZ: Yes. You get some [chuckles] dry mustard and mix it up, with half flour and then put water in it. A person wants to be sure to put the flour in or it'll really blister you. And then they'd get squares of cloth and put the mustard in there and then cover them up. Then they always have a protection underneath their chest so they wouldn't burn. And they'd put them on both their front and their back.

RM: And how long do you leave them on?

RZ: Oh, until you got better.

RM: Oh, it wasn't a thing you left on for 20 minutes or so?

RZ: Oh no. You'd leave them on, lots of times, overnight. And then they'd check them, and then make a new one and put it on.

RM: Did they work?

RZ: Oh yes. They would cure a bad cold in your chest. In fact, they had a lot of old time remedies.

RM: And you used just plain mustard from the store?

RZ: Yes.

RM: How about this onion syrup? Do you remember how to make that?

RZ: Not really. I know she'd boil it and boil it and boil it. She'd boil onions and then put in sugar and vinegar, and after the mixture boiled for quite a while she'd strain off the onions and they'd drink the liquid for coughs.

RM: Did it work?

RZ: Oh, you bet it did. My =mused to make a lot of that for my brother and me when we were little kids.

RM: What about runny noses and colds and things like that that kids get?

RZ: Well, one thing they had plenty of was Mentholatum. I don't remember my folks ever having Vicks but I suppose some people did. But they used Mentholatum in those days.

RM: What did you do for cuts and things like that kids are always getting - skinned knees and so on?

RZ: I guess they used iodine more than anything else. I don't know; it seemed that people in those days weren't sick like they are now. I think they were healthier. I don't know why. Maybe it's because they were outside more or something, but it always seemed to me that they were healthier.

RM: What did the adults do for more serious matters?

RZ: There was a doctor in Round Mountain - his name was Dr. Robert Crane. And I don't remember this, but I used to hear my mom talking about it - when I was 2 years I got diphtheria. And they took my mom and me to Round Mountain and quarantined us so my brother wouldn't get it.

RM: How did they treat diphtheria?

RZ: I was only 2 years old, so I don't remember. He had medicine, but I got well, and I guess I was really sick. But that's who all the people went to in those days.

RM: Did they have a hospital there or was it his office or what?

RZ: It was just an office where he lived.

RM: And where did they quarantine you?

RZ: Right there in his home. He had his own home there, because he had a lot of patients who would come there to see him.

RM: What was the school on the R.O. that you attended as a small child like? Could you describe what the building looked like?

RZ: It was just a little one-room house. It was in an old cabin that was heated with a wood stove.

RM: And what did it look like on the inside?

RZ: Oh, there were desks and a blackboard and stove and the teacher's desk. We would have a new teacher come about every year and she would live with us up there and teach school. There were 5 of us at that time and we kept the school going for a little while. And then a little bit later, the Mealman family moved up to Moore's Creek and the boy and the girl would come down every day and go to school with us for a while, so we had a little bigger school.

RM: What was it like - living with your teacher?

RZ: Well, I don't know. We just all got along great. We'd play games at night and have our own amusement. We'd make candy and eat popcorn and play cards and do all that stuff and she was right there doing it along with us. We had some really super nice teachers.

RM: Where did you get your teachers?

RZ: They would send out applications to these rural places after they got out of school. I can remember my mother had as many as 7 or 8 applications and then she could take her pick.

RM: Where did the teachers come from? Were they from any special place, like back east or California?

RZ: No, they were from just all over. They kind of enjoyed getting out here, I guess. It was different and all and we got along really well.

RM: Were they always women?

RZ: Yes.

RM: And were they always young? Just out of school?

RZ: Yes. They were always young.

RM: Did the other ranches have schools too?

RZ: Well, if they had children going to school they would. But there were quite a few ranches that didn't have children.

RM: Do you remember what ranches might have had schools when the school was on your ranch?

RZ: I know there weren't any down at this end of the valley but I think there might have been a couple up there. The Millet ranch is about the only one I can remember that had a school a long time ago.

RM: And your mother selected who the teacher was going to be from the applications?

RZ: She sure did.

RM: Did the teacher have her own room in your house?

RZ: Yes, she had her own place.

RM: Would the teachers often marry local guys, or did they come here for a year or two and then leave?

RZ: The teachers that we had never did marry anybody here, but they had their friends, all right, and would go to dances and parties and things.

RM: And then when you were about 12 you moved down to the Wine Glass. How did that strike you?

RZ: Oh, I hated to leave the old ranch because my brother and I had a lot of fun up there when we were kids.

RM: What were the things that you had fun doing?

RZ: Oh, we'd climb trees and build the tree houses, and we spent half our time there when we weren't helping our dad or our nother do something. And we'd take off our shoes and socks and go wading in the creeks. If our dad would decide to go help another rancher or something and get away from the ranch, we'd go down and get our dairy calves and ride them. We couldn't do it when he was there, but we used to have a lot of fun when he'd go away for the day.

RM: [Laughs]

RZ: And we spent a lot of time riding, too - both my brother and I.

RM: Were holidays a big occasion on the ranch? Like Thanksgiving, Christmas and so on.

RZ: Oh, yes. We usually just had our own dinner, though. You know, people didn't go to other people's houses as much as they do now. We always cooked a big dinner and our was a real great cook. She did a lot of baking . . .

RM: What are some of the things she baked?

RZ: She baked all kinds of pies and cakes.

RIM: What kind of pies?

RZ: A lot of apple pies - all the fruit she could possibly get she made into pies. And we used to make our own mincemeat, so then she would make a lot of mincemeat pies, too.

RM: Did she bake bread?

RZ: Oh yes. She always baked her own bread and rolls and cinnamon rolls and all that.

RM: Was there a special day of the week for baking, a day for washing and so forth?

RZ: Yes. She washed clothes on Monday and ironed on Tuesday and baked on Wednesday.

RM: That's what my mother did.

RZ: And she cleaned house the rest of the week.

RM: And of course ironing was done with the old heavy iron on the stove, wasn't it?

RZ: Oh yes. And they also had some that the handle clamped on that were a little bit lighter that I used to use when I helped her.

RM: So you weren't too crazy about moving down to the Wine Glass Ranch?

RZ: No, but after I got down there for a while I really learned to love that old ranch.

RM: Could you describe what the property looked like then?

RZ: There was a real big house and it was nice, but the only thing was, it was a damp place; we had a lot more water then and the 2 back rooms got so that they kind of smelled misty. In later years they took that house completely down because there was so much water getting underneath it and all. But we lived in that house for a long time and then my brother built another one further over that Karl lives in now. And I left about that time and moved up here.

RM: About what year did you leave? Was it when you got married?

RZ: Yes; when I got married in '37.

RM Did you go to school on the Wine Glass?

RZ: We went to school at Darrough's. Kate and Raymond Darrough lived there then and they had a couple of kids and they went to school there and there were a couple or 3 Indians. And I would ride up on my horse every day and go to school (unless it was really cold - then somebody'd bring me out).

RM: How far was it on your horse?

RZ: It's just a short distance away - about 1-1/2 miles or something. I'd put my horse in the corral and unsaddle him.

RM: Really? And then when you got ready to go home you'd go out and saddle him up and head back home?

RZ: I sure did. I went to school there for my first 2 years of high school and then I went to Round Mountain for my other 2 years.

RM: Where did you hold your school at Darrough's?

RZ: The first year it was in the big long building there. We had a room clear at the end. And then they moved a little house in and we had school there the second year.

RM: I see. Did the teacher live with the Darroughs?

RZ: Yes.

RM: Were they like the teachers that you'd had before on the R.O. -young women who were just out of school?

RZ: That's right.

RM: Why did you change to Round Mountain then?

RZ: Well, the superintendent wouldn't let me go to school there any longer. He wanted me to go to a bigger school. So I had an aunt living there and I stayed with her during the week. Sometimes I'd come home in the middle of the week.

RM: What was her name?

RZ: Katie Berg.

### CHAPTER THREE

RM: Rene, let's see - you would have moved up to the Round Mountain School in about 1929?

RZ: Yes. About '29.

RM: Could you describe the school in Round Mountain?

RZ: Well, there was one real large building with 2 small rooms in the back and we went to school in the big building. There were around 15 kids, I suppose, in the high school.

RM: Were they mainly children of miners?

RZ: Yes.

RM: Did the other ranchers send their children into Round Mountain to high school?

RZ: There wasn't anybody else in high school at that time here in the valley - I was the last one. And my brother didn't go to high school - he quit going. I went to school there for 2 years and when I graduated there were just 6 of us girls graduating.

RM: Do you remember your graduation classmates' names?

RZ: There was Violet Susich and Lucille Berg and Pansy Weeks and Ruby Goldback and Ruby Zuzallo.

RM: Do you know what happened to those girls? Did they stay in the valley or did they move away?

RZ: Violet, I think, lives in Reno; Lucille lives in Reno; Pansy lives in Fallon and Ruby Goldback passed away quite a few years ago. Ruby Zuzallo came up every year to stay with me from Fresno, but she's gotten really sick. She's in a rest home in Fresno now, but she would always come up and spend a couple of months with me.

RM: Was it a big shock for you to go to a bigger school?

RZ: Well, not really. I knew all of them, and I kind of enjoyed it. We had a lot of fun.

RM: So you had known them from being in the community?

RZ: Yes, because they lived in Round Mountain and went to school there before I went up; I knew all of them and we got along really well. We had a lot of fun together. We'd go to dances and we had a basketball team.

RM What teams did you play in basketball?

RZ: Tonopah and Manhattan and Austin.

RM Were they rivals?

RZ: Oh yes.

RM How many teachers did you have?

RZ: Oh, we just had the one. They had a grainier school where the little kids went and they had a teacher for them.

RM: Were there mostly girls in the high school?

RZ: Yes, there were more girls than boys.

RM: A lot of boys dropped out to go to work?

RZ: Sure. Quite a few of them didn't go, but there were some boys who went too.

RM: Where did you hold your dances?

RZ: They had a town hall up there.

RM Where was it located?

RZ: Do you know where the General Store is?

RM: Yes.

RZ: It was right across the street from about where the General Store is now. They had a large building there. Of course it isn't there anymore.

RM: What happened to it?

RZ: I don't really know; they moved it out. I think they moved it to Tonopah.

RM: What kind of music did they play at the dances?

RZ: They had people up there who did their own playing. One would play the piano and one would play the drums and another the saxophone . . .

RM: Did you ever just use a phonograph?



RZ: No, we always had live music because there were always people around who could play music.

RM: Did you dress up fancy for proms and things like that?

RZ: Yes. We had long dresses.

RM: Where did you get the dresses?

RZ: We would buy them in Tonopah. We had some pretty dresses when we were kids - or we thought they were pretty.

RM: Did you wear formals like the girls wear now?

RZ: We sure did.

RM: What kind of clothes did you wear to school every day?

RZ: Oh, just overalls.

RM You weren't required to wear dresses or anything?

RZ: Oh, I'd wear a dress occasionally, yes, but it was mainly Levi's.

RM: Is that what most of the girls wore?

RZ: Yes. Of course when we were real little we always wore dresses. When we got a little bigger we could wear overalls.

RM: What were your school hours at the school on the ranch?

RZ: From 9:00 till 4:00 and we had an hour off at noon. And we had recess in the morning and recess in the afternoon, which we always looked forward to.

RM: So you graduated from high school about-the time the Depression began.

RZ: Just about.

RM: Did the Depression affect you at all, or did you notice it out here?

RZ: No, we didn't notice it at all.

RM: What did you do when you got out of school?

RZ: I worked on the ranch for quite a while. We had lost our dad and I helped my brother with the cattle, and . . .

RM: You lost your dad about the same time you graduated, didn't you?

RZ: Yes - a little bit before.

RM: What did he die of?

RZ: He had appendicitis and then his heart just gave out on him. We got him to Reno all right, but he didn't live too long after that.

RM: You didn't take him to Tonopah?

RZ: No. We went to Reno because he was pretty bad. He had a hernia and appendicitis. It was just too much for his heart, I guess.

RM: So you basically worked on the ranch as a cowboy?

RZ: Yes - just helping on the ranch for quite a while. Then I went to work in Round Mountain for a while. They had a big boardinghouse up there and I waited tables there for a while just to have a change.

RM Did the boardinghouse have a name?

RZ: No. When you go into town, it was right across the street from the bar and Palace Inn.

RM: As you go into town it would be on the left?

RZ: Yes. Well, they had a boardinghouse there and then they had rooms. It was a regular hotel, really.

RM: Was it what people have called the Round Mountain Hotel?

RZ: Yes. They had rooms upstairs and then they had the boardinghouse below. There was an ice cream parlor there, too.

RM: How many men do you think boarded there?

RZ: Oh, there were a lot of miners there at that time. There were maybe a hundred men working at the mine.

RM: And how many were at the boardinghouse?

RZ: Maybe 50 or something like that. But there were quite a few around there at that time working.

RM: And some of them roomed there and some of them roomed somewhere else, but they took their meals there?

RZ: Quite a few of them ate there.

RM: What was your job at the boardinghouse?

RZ: I waited tables. I'd help in the kitchen, too, and then at night when we got off work we had to make sandwiches for the next morning for the miners to take with them. We wouldn't have time in the morning, so we had to make them at night before we closed down.

RM: What kind of sandwiches did you make?

RZ: Roast beef, mostly.

RM: Did you use home baked bread or store bread?

RZ: Oh, store bread.

RM: What else did you put in their lunches?

RZ: Well, they always baked there - cake and pie - whatever they had; cookies.

RM: Did they take coffee in their thermos?

RZ: Yes; we had to fix it for them.

RM: And then you would put it in their lunch bucket? Did each man have his own special lunch bucket?

RZ: That's right. I only worked up there for about a year.

RM: Do you remember what your pay was?

RZ: It wasn't very much. Maybe \$3 a day.

RM: Where did you live when you were working there?

RZ: These people who were cooking at the restaurant lived across the street and they had an extra room and I stayed there with them. We'd come over together and open up the place in

the morning. I worked all day. Maybe I'd have a break in the afternoon for a little while, but we worked pretty hard there.

RM After you worked there what did you do?

RZ: I went back home and helped on the ranch again for quite a little while and then I went to Reno to business college for about a year.

RM: What business college did you go to?

RZ: The Reno Business College.

RM: Where did you live in Reno when you were there?

RZ: I had an aunt there - Nellie Anderson - and she had a daughter just a little bit younger than I was and we went to business college together. But I didn't like it. I was homesick the whole time I was going there, so I worked there for just a little while and then I came here.

RM: You worked for a while after you got out of business college?

RZ: Well, while I was still in business college. As soon as I got through I just came home.

RM: Where was the business college located?

RZ: It burned down. It was right in the middle of town. Seemed to me it was on Virginia Street, but I'm not sure.

RM: What subjects did you study?

RZ: Oh, shorthand and typing and bookkeeping.

RM: Did you enjoy studying?

RZ: Yes, I liked the school real well, but I just didn't want to be away from the valley.

RM: Do you remember where you worked while you were there?

RZ: I worked for a fellow by the name of John Rob Clark - he was a lawyer. I worked just a little while and then quit and came home.

RM: What did you miss? Did you miss the people or the valley or the weather or . . . ?

RZ: I missed everything. It seems like when you're born in the sticks you just can't get it out of your mind or something. I really have always liked this valley.

RM: What did you do when you came back then?

RZ: I got married not too long after I came back.

RM: Who did you marry?

RZ: Dan Berg.

RM: He was Will Berg's son, wasn't he?

RZ: Right.

RM: And you had probably always known him.

RZ: Yes, I always knew him. In fact we went to school together for a while, and then he went away to school in Logan, Utah, for a while. When he came back we got married. He was just like I was'; he was raised here, too.

RM: Where did you live after you got married?

RZ: We lived in Round Mountain for a while and we had a grocery store up there.

RM: Where was the store located? Was it the one next to the Berg home?

RZ: Yes.

RM: Did you open it up or did you kind of take it over?

RZ: No, we opened it up.

RM: Was Round Mountain booming, to make you want to open a store then?

RZ: Yes, there were quite a few people working at the mine again, and we had a good business.

RM: What were some of the products that you carried?

RZ: Well, we had all kinds of canned goods and then we had meat [from the] steers we raised down here at the Berg ranch. Dan would butcher the beefs and then we'd sell them up there. We could do that in those days, you know. We had one of those walk-in boxes where we kept our meat. We sold lamb and pork and beef and . . .

RM: Did you butcher your own lamb and pork too?

RZ: Not pork. We butchered our own lambs, but not our pork. We had to buy that. And then we had milk.

RM: Did you have clothes or anything like that?

RZ: Oh, no - just food. That was enough.

RM: How long did you and Dan run the store?

RZ: We had it for a couple of years and then the mine quieted down and there weren't too many people around so we closed up the place.

RM: Where did you live?

RZ: We lived across the street from the garage. That was our house, too. On the right hand side.

RM: On the north side?

RZ: Yes - going up the street. We owned that house and lived there while we had the store.

RM: What did you do after you closed the store?

RZ: We came down here to the ranch.

RM: And Will had always kind of taken care of the ranch, hadn't he?

RZ: Well, he had his orchard and he had gardens and he would peddle vegetables and fruit around - that's how he made his living. He didn't have the cattle or anything. Dan had the cattle.

RM: So Dan was kind of always involved in the ranch with his dad. Skook took care of the water, didn't he?

RZ: Yes, Skook lived up town. Oh, he was down here when he was younger, too, but then he took the water company over from his father after his father died.

RM: And so you and Dan moved down here. How did you earn a living then?

RZ: With our cattle.

RM: How many acres did you have on the Berg ranch?

RZ: Oh, I don't know how many there are - maybe around 700. Some of it is not too good though. There was a lot of alkali down at the lower end - it's not good for anything.

RM: Where were your grazing areas?

RZ: In Jefferson Canyon and Twin River.

RM: When you and Dan moved back here, how many head of cattle were you running?

RZ: We didn't have very many at that time - I'd say just a couple of hundred head. And Dan would work out once in a while for people to help them out in the wintertime, so we got along fine.

RM: When did you move here with Dan? Was it about '38?

RZ: Somewhere in there. It'd be . . . yes, that'd be just about right. There was another house that sat close by out here. We lived in that and then it burned down so we moved this house from Tonopah.

RM: Why don't we describe the buildings around the ranch? As you come down the road from the ranch, the first building that you find here now is a small house on the right hand side. Was that building here then?

RZ: Yes. We lived in that building. We moved it down from Round Mountain and we lived in it for a while because Will and Lillian Berg were living in the house that sat right here - the one that burned down.

RM: OK. The next house that you come to is a frame house that faces west and is kind of kitty-corner to the cabin that you moved in, or the small house. And that's the house that we're in now.

RZ: Yes. We moved this one from Tonopah after the other house burned down. Will and Lillian moved up to Round Mountain then and we moved into that house and then it burned down so we moved this one from Tonopah.

RM: When did that house burn down?

RZ: Oh, about '52.

RM: So you moved this house in after 1952.

RZ: Right - shortly afterwards.

RM: Is there another house here or is that a trailer house?

RZ: Yes. There are the 2 cabins here and then down farther are my oldest son and his wife. The family is all gone - the kids have moved.

RM: Were the 2 cabins here then?

RZ: Yes, they were here.

RM: And you operated the ranch through the 1940s? Was Dan in the service or anything?

RZ: No, he wasn't in the service.

RM: And what happened next in your life?

RZ: Well, we had our 3 boys. Russell was born in '39, he's the oldest one; and then Roger is the second one - he was born in '46; and then Kenny was born in '47.

RM: Did they grow up here on the ranch?

RZ: They sure did

RM: Did they go to school in Round Mountain and Tonopah?

RZ: They went to school in Round Mountain until they were out of grade school and then they went to Austin to school.

RM: Why did they go to Austin and not Tonopah?

RZ: At that time I liked the high school better in Austin, and they had friends in Austin that they didn't have in Tonopah.

RM: All 3 boys went to school in Austin.

RZ: Oh, Kenny didn't. He didn't go to high school.

RM: Then when did Dan pass away?

RZ: In '55.

RM: That must have come as a terrible shock. He was a relatively young man, wasn't he?

RZ: Oh yes - 41. He had a heart attack.

RM: And then what did you do after you became a widow with children?



RZ: Well, I took my kids and went to Fallon and stayed with my brother and sent the kids to school one year just to get away from here. I thought I might decide to stay over there, but I changed my mind after I was there for a little while. So when school was out I came back home and my aunt and I opened a grocery store in Round Mountain for a while.

## CHAPTER FOUR

RM: So you and your aunt opened a store in Round Mountain?

RZ: Yes. It's the building that's a church now – alongside the Palace. We had a store there for a while and the mine was going pretty good then and we had a good business. Then it got quiet so I sold out my half to my aunt.

RM: And which aunt were you involved with in the business?

RZ: That was Katie Berg.

RM: How is she related to you?

RZ: She married Karl Berg. Karl was Will Berg's brother, and Katie was my father's sister - the one I told you about who lived at the R.O.

RM: So she married into the Bergs and you married into the Bergs.

RZ: Yes, right.

RM: And you opened your store in '58.

RZ: Yes. It wasn't too big, but it was something like the one that we had up the street there. The only difference from the store Dan and I had was that we had dry goods there. We sold quite a bit of meat and dairy products.

RM: Where did you get your meat?

RZ: We sent to Reno for it. There was a truck that came in once a week and delivered things for us from Reno.

RM: Meanwhile, what was happening to the ranch? Was it operating or did you rent it out or sell it or . . . ?

RZ: No. I still lived here and my oldest son was getting old enough to take care of cattle and we got some more cattle in and he's the one who took care of the ranch. Roger and Kenney were old enough then, so they worked on the ranch too.

RM: Was your Aunt Katie also a widow?

RZ: Yes.

RM: When did her husband pass away - about the same time?

RZ: No, quite a little while before that. I don't remember just what year it was.

RM: Did you enjoy the store?

RZ: Yes. I liked it - it was something to do. Then I got out of the store business and came back down home and then Jean Carver asked me to go to work for her for a little while.

RM: For a little while.

RZ: For a little while. I've been there ever since.

RM: What year did you start working with Jean?

RZ: Well, right after I sold my interest in the store.

RM: How long did you have the store?

RZ: About 1-1/2 years. And it was right after that . . . I went to work for Jean in '60 so we had the store in '58 and '59.

RM: And it was successful. It's just that the mine kind of dropped off?

RZ: Yes. And there just wasn't enough business for the 2 of us, so she took over the store.

RM: How long did the store continue?

RZ: Not too much longer. She wasn't too well anyway, so she just closed it up.

RM: Tell me about how you first went to work at Carver's Station.

RZ: [Chuckles] Jean just asked me to help her out for a while because she needed some more help, so I thought I might just as well. I did and, I don't know, Jean and I got along so well that I just kept on working there. And Jim was taking care of the ranch and he had sheep then and cattle, and everything was going along well, so I just kept on working.

RM: What did you start off doing at Carver's?

RZ: Everything. At that time (of course it's a lot different now) I cooked and waited on the customers. And the bar was in the same room, so I tended bar and pumped gas once in a while.

RM They had a gas pump when you started?

RZ: Oh yes. In fact, we did a little bit of everything in those days. But it was nice.

RM: What shift did you work? Were they open 24 hours at that time?

RZ: Yes. I worked morning shift most of the time and Jean worked in the afternoons and then she had another lady who worked there - Lona Williamson. We worked 8 hours a day, and then when we got short of help, Jean and I were both working 12-hour shifts for a while.

RM: Wow. Was your normal work week 5 days or 6?

RZ: It was 6.

RM: Did you like it?

RZ: Yes, I did. I enjoyed it. I liked meeting the people and talking to them and making a lot of friends.

RM: How did Carver's change over the years?

RZ: Well, in those days it was a truck stop - that was the main business down there. Sometimes you'd look out there and the whole parking lot would be full of nothing but trucks. Of course, in later years it kind of changed and the trucks didn't come this way much anymore. So it's just the mines now . . . and they enlarged it; it's a lot different than it used to be.

RM: How would you describe the truckers? Were they nice?

RZ: You bet. They were a great bunch of guys. And every once in a while now, one of them will come in from years ago. We'll talk and just have the greatest time visiting. They were all real nice people.

RM: You got to know some of them as individuals, didn't you?

RZ: That we did. They would come there lots of times just to rest and talk - just to get out of the truck, you know. And they'd tell us about their life and their families and all. It sure was interesting. I miss those truck drivers. Jean does too; we talk about it every once in a while.

RM: And now it's miners? How do the miners differ from the truckers?

RZ: Well, I don't know; they're just a different class of people, that's all. There's a lot of good people here too, but . . .

RM: Carver's changed ownership - Jean Carver sold out, didn't she?

RZ: Yes, she did. She sold out to her son. He had it for a while.

RM: Was it Gary?

RZ: Gary and Bertie. And then my kids Roger and Kenny bought it from them. They had it for about 1-1/2 years and then they sold it to Greg and Sue Scott, who own it now.

RM: Were they local people?

RZ: No. They came from Lake Tahoe.

RM: And you've stayed on through all these ownerships and all these years - you've been there more than 30 years, haven't you?

RZ: It'll be 30 years in May.

RM: You've had a career there haven't you?

RZ: I guess you'd call it a career.

RM: How have you seen it change through the years?

RZ: Oh, I don't know. There's just a different class of people; it's busier now, too, because of the mines. But a lot of it's the same, too. They put the bar out by itself and did a few things to make it bigger but the building is about the same as it used to be.

RM: Is the menu pretty much the same?

RZ: Oh no. We didn't have much of a variety in those days, and it seemed that the truckers usually stopped there for ham and eggs.

RM: You were famous for your ham and eggs, weren't you? They knew about you all over.

RZ: I know it. And usually that was their main meal. Now they have a menu with a lot more things on it.

RM: What's the most popular item now on the menu?

RZ: Well, ham and eggs in the mornings for breakfast are still the most popular.

RM: What else is popular there now?

RZ: They have a lot of chicken fried steaks, and rib steaks are real popular. Then they have their prime rib and fried chicken - those are about the most popular. And of course they have hamburgers at noon and dinner time and they're very popular. We make a lot of hamburgers and cheeseburgers.

RM: How has your job changed over the years there?

RZ: There's a lot more work. It's busier and you have to prepare more food and . . .

RM: Do you still do the same jack-of-all-trades job in there?

RZ: No, no. I'm just a cook, is all. And I only work 4 days a week; that's enough.

RM: Eight hours a day?

RZ: Well, sometimes more. I go down about 3:45 in the morning and lots of times . . .

RM: A quarter to 4?

RZ: Well, we open up at 5:30 and there's a lot of preparing to do before that. Yes, I'm down there about 3:45 on the days I work.

RM: What time do you usually come home?

RZ: Oh, 2:30, 3:00.

RM That's a good day.

RZ: You bet. But I guess it's good for a person to get out and work instead of sitting at home.

RM: I think so, yes.

RZ: It'd be different if you had somebody to sit home with you.

RM: Yes. You're very youthful and you look very youthful. I think probably a lot of it is the work.

RZ: I know my mother always said, "Hard work never hurt anybody."

RM: And the ranch here is still operating with cattle and so forth?

RZ: Yes, Jim has a lot of good cattle.

RM: What kind of cattle do you have?

RZ: He has Herefords and Longhorns.

RM: Texas longhorns?

RZ: Yes. And he owns property clear down there by Lone Mountain - he has that range. He has cattle down there.

RM: Oh really. Which side of Lone Mountain?

RZ: Around the other side.

RM: Going toward Coaldale?

RZ: Yes. He has range all the way down there.

RM: Does he have range in between?

RZ: No. Just down there and then here across the valley.

RM: How does he get his cattle down there?

RZ: He drives them down.

RM: So you're raising the old-style Texas Longhorns?

RZ: Yes. Jim has quite a few.

RM: What's the advantage to them?

RZ: Oh, I don't know. They survive well in the wintertime - they like the cold weather. And he just likes them, and so he thought he'd try them for a while. He's had them for about 6 years, I guess, and they're doing fine. And then he has the others, too. He's getting along just fine.

RM: Do you market your cattle in any particular season?

RZ: Usually he takes them to Fallon in the fall.

RM: How often do you have roundup?

RZ: A couple times a year - in the spring and fall.

RM: So your range is down on the other side of Lone Mountain and then still in Jefferson?

RZ: No, not Jefferson.

RM: Where else is your range then?

RZ: He has some across the valley; he has cattle over there. And then he has quite a few of them inside here, too. He keeps quite a few inside [on the ranch property].

RM: Are there people in the history of Round Mountain who stand out in your mind who you knew personally? You knew Laura Darrough, didn't you? Grandma Darrough?

RZ: Oh yes. I can just see her sitting down there crocheting - she crocheted all the time. She did beautiful work. And she was sure a nice little soul.

RM: Was she a small woman?

RZ: Yes, real small. She and my nother were really good friends - they used to visit back and forth. She didn't get away from the ranch much so she usually just stayed right there. I never knew Grandpa Darrough. He passed away years ago.

RM: Everybody called her Grandma, didn't they?

RZ: Yes.

RM: She was kind of the grandma of the valley, was that it?

RZ: Yes, sort of. People would go down there to go swimming and then to go visit her, too. She had a lot of friends. She was a nice person.

RM: How about Will Berg? What stands out in your mind about him?

RZ: He was a hard worker. He was just a small fellow and he worked so hard with his garden and his orchard. He'd get up at daybreak and work and work and work and then he would come home and rest during the middle of the day and then he'd go back towards evening and work some more in the dark. He sure did have a beautiful garden here.

RM: He had 3, didn't he?

RZ: Yes. He had 3 gardens and he sure worked at them. And his orchard too.

RM: Do you still have a garden on the ranch?

RZ: No.

RM: Are the trees still here from the orchard?

RZ: There are a few that are still alive. That's where Roger lives. I don't know whether you know him or not.



RM: I don't think so.

RZ: He lives right up there [to the west], where the orchard was. He works at those trees, but they're almost all dead because we haven't had any water for so long.

RM: You mentioned that there's less water now than there used to be.

RZ: Oh, yes. It's really dry.

RM: Is it a long-term thing or are we just in a short drought?

RZ: I don't know. This'll be the fourth year that it's dry. I don't know what the problem is, but it just doesn't seem to snow very much in the mountains anymore.

RM: And it's showing up down in the valley more because it's so dry.

RZ: Sure. We're hoping that we get more snow now, but I don't know that we're going to. We got one storm. There's quite a bit over on Jefferson and Shoshone, but not too much up here in our mountains.

RM: What was the man's name who owned the Round Mountain Mining Company for so many years?

RZ: Louie Gordon.

RM: Did you know him?

RZ: Yes; but I didn't really know him that well. I knew him to talk to him and everything, but as far as knowing much about him, I just didn't.

RM: He didn't actually live here, did he?

RZ: No. He spent most of his time in Reno. He would come out and maybe stay a couple of days or something, and then go back. But we all knew him.

RM: Who else in your mind stands out as kind of prominent in the valley? Did you have much contact with Peavine through the years?

RZ: Not so much. The Bertolinos lived down there - we knew them. My brother would go down and ride with Pete Bertolino.

RM: Has he had the ranch there for a long time?

RZ: They had it for years. I don't know just when they acquired it or anything, but that was the Bertolino ranch for years, and my brother and Pete would ride together quite a bit. And we knew his mother, Rena, and the father too; he passed away a long time ago. That was a nice ranch, once upon a time.

RM: Did you get over to Manhattan much?

RZ: Once in a while we'd go over there to a dance when we were younger, but I never did go to Manhattan very much. I don't care much for Manhattan.

RM: Why is that?

RZ: Oh, I don't know. It seems like it's cold and snowy in the wintertime and all those steep old hills . . . it reminds me of Austin. I guess it's OK. A lot of people like it, but I don't care much for it.

RM: Do you like Austin?

RZ: No.

RM: When you went to town, which town did you go to?

RZ: Round Mountain That was our town in those days. They had stores there and they had just everything you wanted. They had a bakery and . . . they had a big general store there when I was a child living on the R.O. Ranch.

RM: Do you know what it was called?

RZ: The Bergs had it for quite a while - Karl and Will, I guess. Anyway, a couple of the brothers owned it then. They had everything in it. And then they sold out and a fellow by the name of Charlie Bono took over the place and had it for a long time and that's where we did our shopping. Then down the street a ways, in the area where the General Store is now, they had a bakery and she had some canned goods too.

RM: Who was that?

RZ: Her name was Kelleher - I don't remember her first name. And further on down the street they had a meat market. And I know when we were just little kids our dad used to butcher his steers and take them up and sell them to him. We used to take eggs and milk and whatever we had for him, but I can't remember his name.

RM: What other shops were there?

RZ: That was about it. They had 2 or 3 bars there right on Main Street.

RM: Do you remember their names?

RZ: One was called the Palace.

RM: But it's not the present Palace?

RZ: No. I can't remember the names of the other 2, but there were 3 of them. They were pretty popular too, of course, with the miners.

RM: What did people do for dental care in those days?

RZ: They went to Tonopah. There's a dentist and doctor in Tonopah.

RM: Did most people tend to lose their teeth in the old days?

RZ: I don't know as they did any more than they do now; I don't think so.

RM: Did your mother and father have their natural teeth?

RZ: Yes.

RM: What do you remember about Tonopah? Did you go into Tonopah much in those days?

RZ: Not very much. We'd go once in a while and our dad would take us to the Butler Theater. We'd go to the show and eat popcorn. Popcorn and candy would be quite a treat for us. But we didn't do that very often. And in back of the Mizpah Hotel there was a hotel - just one story [tall] - this lady had a lot of rooms and that's where we used to stay, and we thought that was quite a treat, to be able to stay in a hotel.

## CHAPTER FIVE

RM: Did you know Bill Thomas, who was the sheriff for Nye County for so long, very well?

RZ: Well, I knew him but I didn't really know anything about him.

RM: Did you ever have much contact with the mines in Round Mountain? For instance, did you ever go down in the mines or spend much time over at the mines?

RZ: No, not much. I went down one time. My cousins came up from Reno and we went down in the mine. This has been, oh, 12 or so years ago. I sure did enjoy it, though.

RM: Oh. You mean the mine now.

RZ: Yes. We went down and went all through those tunnels and everything, and looked around, and saw where some names were up on the walls that we knew. It was real interesting. But that was the only time. And I have not been near that mine for several years. They give tours once in a while I guess.

RM: Did you go to Reno very often as a child?

RZ: Not when I was a child. When we got older, we went to Reno.

RM: What was involved in getting to Reno? Was it quite a trip?

RZ: Yes, it was quite a trip. We used to go by Tonopah and it seemed like it took so long. Reno was so different than it is now.

RM: Did you ever go on the train?

RZ: We went on the train when our dad was sick; that's the only time I was ever on the train.

RM: Rene, when I drove down the valley from Austin, after I crossed the Nye County line I made a list of the ranches down to [the Berg ranch]. I thought I would just follow this list from the Nye County line south, and ask you what you know about any of these places in the past or even now. And you might tell me about who used to own them and any high points in your mind about them. The first ranch you come to after you cross the Nye County line is the Triple T Ranch. What do you remember about it? RZ: The Daniel brothers used to own that but they didn't live right there. They lived farther on down . . . you could probably see the trees from the highway.

RM: Yes.

RZ: That's where they lived. But it was all connected. They got their water from that canyon and they raised cattle and sheep.

RM: Was it a large operation?

RZ: Pretty large, yes. Jim and Gene Daniels lived there. I don't know really where they came from. They were there when I was just a little kid and there were several Daniel brothers. One of them lived up Kingston [Canyon] and Jim decided to get away from here and he went down to Lida and ran cattle down there until he died. But they were real nice people. Neither one of them ever married. RM: And how long were they there?

RZ: Well, they were there when I was a little kid; I imagine they lived there 15 or 20 years.

RM: Yes. Have you had any contact with the ranch or the people there since then?

RZ: No. Let's see, the people that bought the R.O. Ranch have that place now. They have somebody living there who I don't know taking care of it.

RM: I see. Was it called the Triple T when you were a kid?

RZ: No. It was just called Daniels' ranch.

RM: Where did the Triple T name come in, do you know?

RZ: Well, I think it was before Zinmermans bought it that people named it that. I don't know where the name came from.

RM: The next thing you come to is the Northumberland Road. That was an old mining camp, wasn't it?

RZ: Yes. I've never been up there.

RM: There's a mine up there now, or there was. Cyprus was up there, weren't they?

RZ: Yes. I guess a few people still work up there but I don't hear much about it. I don't know much about that.

RM: OK. Then the next thing you come to is Smoky Joe's.

RZ: That's pretty new, too.

RM: Did there used to be anything there at all?

RZ: No. He just built that gas station - that's all I know. It hasn't been there very long.

RM: Is there also a brothel there?

RZ: I don't think so.

RM: I must be thinking of some other place.

RZ: You may be thinking of over in the Fallon area.

RM: That's what I was thinking of - the Fallon one - with the dancing girls on their sign.

RZ: We all get the biggest kick out of that when we go by there.

RM: I can't figure out how you get in there. It looks to me as if it's totally fenced in.

RZ: Yes. I don't know either.

RM: OK, then the next thing you come to past Smoky Joe's is 3 trailers sitting out there with "Box 95," whatever that is. Does that ring a bell at all?

RZ: No.

RM: The next thing you come to is the Twist Ranch.

RZ: The Twist Ranch people years ago were named Gendron - Frank and Eva Gendron. They owned that ranch for years. They had a nice orchard - we'd go up there and pick apples when I was just a kid. They were really nice people. They lived there for a long time and then they sold it and several people have owned it since then. Dick Uhlig owns it right now; they're from California.

RM: Was the Twist Ranch a big operation when you were a kid?

RZ: Yes, it was. There were no sheep, but they had cattle and he had quite a set-up there for a long time. They were older people, and then they finally left. But it's been sold several times since then.

RM: OK. The next place you come to is Reynolds. It's right above the Smoky Valley Ranch. Does it mean anything to you?

RZ: Oh, that Reynolds. That's where Marge Johnson (of course, her name is Reynolds now) lives with her husband George Reynolds. They've been in this valley for a long time, too. She was married to a fellow by the name of Roy Johnson and then he passed away and she married George. I don't know what they have up there, though.

RM: What was there when you were a kid?

RZ: There wasn't anything.

RM: Then what do you remember about the Smoky Valley Ranch?

RZ: Well, Charlie McCloud owned that and he and his mother and his sister lived there for a long time. And he had cattle - he had range across there at Moore's Creek a long time. He lived there for years and then he got married. He married a lady in Austin and they moved. Of course Mrs. McCloud had passed away by that time. He moved to Fallon and his sister moved to California. And it's been sold a couple of times. Dick Uhlig had it this last time, I think, and he sold it to Skook Berg. He lives up there now.

RM: So Skook and Arleen now live at the Smoky Valley Ranch. When did Skook buy it, do you know?

RZ: Oh, last year.

RM: Then you come down and there's another ranch, and it doesn't have a name or anything on it . . .

RZ: Oh, that's the Millett ranch. Al Millett owned that years and years ago. He and his wife lived there and they had a store there.

RM: Was this in the '20s or '30s?

RZ: Oh yes. Even in the teens too, because when I was just a little tiny kid my family shopped there. They'd shop up there quite a bit because they had this store and they had groceries and then they sold a lot of feed and the ranchers would all buy feed from them, too. We used to go there quite often. And then in later years it belonged to Bill Farrington. He bought the place and then my mother married him and he was my step-father in later years.

RM: Oh, I see. After your father passed away.

RZ: Yes. Quite a while after that. So he and my mother lived there for quite a while. Then they moved away and their daughter and her husband lived there then for some time. But right now I think George Manley owns it. I don't know whether he lives there or not.

RM: Was it always a big operation, or not?

RZ: No. It always was very small.

RM: Who supported that little store there? Was it miners up in the canyons? It doesn't seem that there'd be enough people around here.

RZ: No, it was the ranchers. They bought groceries and, as I said, they had a lot of feed that they sold to the ranchers. They did real well.

RM: But it doesn't seem that there'd be enough ranchers.

RZ: Oh yes. They did all right.

RM: OK. So that's the Millett ranch. Now, the next ranch is the Turk ranch. What do you recall about it?

RZ: I don't know anything about it these days, but years ago there were people by the name of Jones - 3 sisters and a brother. The girls were Ida and Alice and Emma, and their brother's name was Fred. He had mining property - I don't know exactly what canyon it was up or anything, but it was on that side somewhere - and that's how they made their living. They were there for a long time.

RM: Was it a small operation?

RZ: Yes. But they were quite the sisters. There were 3 of them; they were old maids Ida used to get this pinto burro that she had and ride down to the R.O. and visit us all the time. She thought a lot of my MI6 They were good friends. She was an artist and Emma was a seamstress and Alice was a musician. They were quite talented people.

RM: Were they elderly?

RZ: Yes.

RM: And the brother was unmarried too?

RZ: Yes. They were all nice people; we used to go up and visit them.

RM: Did they live there a long time?

RZ: They lived there for quite a little while and then they finally left. I guess he got tired of mining and so they left then.

RM: Where did they come from?

RZ: I don't have the faintest idea. They were quite the people.

RM: Well then, as you come down the road there are some canyons that go off into the Toiyabes. What do you remember about Kingston Canyon from when you were a kid?



RZ: All I remember are people by the name of Frandsen - Dan and Maggie Frandsen. They lived way up the canyon there. I don't know whether you have been up there or not, but they have kind of a lake there. Well, they didn't used to have it. It was a real nice field and they raised hay up there and sold it and had a few cattle too. We used to go up there and visit them. In fact, my father used to go up there and help him put the hay up. It was a beautiful canyon in those days. There wasn't anything there then. It isn't like it is now. We'd go up there and pick berries. They had chokecherries and elderberries and . . . But I don't Mow what's there anymore. It's changed so much.

RM: Actually, Kingston is in Lander County isn't it?

RZ: Yes.

RM: OK, the first canyon that I saw a sign for in Nye County is Summit Canyon. Does that ring any bells to you?

RZ: Well, the only thing I know about that is that my grandfather had an orchard up there. They had apple trees - they raised really nice apples up there. He had a little buggy, and 2 of the prettiest little black horses that pulled that buggy. I can still see them. And he'd put my brother and me in the buggy - this is my Grandfather Rogers - and he and Grandma would sit in front and we'd go up and pick apples. I guess most of the trees have died out by now, but he planted those trees himself and he took care of them.

RM: Was it his land?

RZ: No, not really. They got water from there for the R.O. but he just decided he wanted an orchard and he planted apple trees.

RM: Why did he plant an orchard up there? You'd think they'd get frozen out.

RZ: No. They're more protected up the canyon, I think, than they are in the valley. People's fruit trees sometimes will freeze down here in the valley when they won't up the canyons.

RM: Is that right. So he went up there for protection, probably, rather than down here.

RZ: I think so. He sure raised some nice apples.

RM: Did he have a nice orchard on the R.O.?

RZ: No. He didn't have any orchard at all down there.

RM: And he just planted apple trees up there?

RZ: Yes - just apple trees. I guess they're still kind of living; I don't know. I haven't been up there but I suppose they are.

RM: OK. The next canyon is Ophir. What do you recall about Ophir Canyon?

RZ: Well, years ago I guess they had a big mining operation going on up there but I don't really know anything about it. I know that they had a boardinghouse up there and fed the guys who worked there quite a long time ago.

RM: But Ophir Canyon didn't mean anything to you when you were growing up?

RZ: No, not really.

RM: OK, the next canyon is North Twin.

RZ: North and South Twin are beautiful canyons. We used to keep our cattle up there and we'd go up and sometimes we'd camp there for several days at a time and watch the cattle. Oh gee, that's beautiful country. And I guess people had a couple of mines up there too. I think Bob Wilson has a mine up there right now.

RM: Yes. Bob was telling me about the guy who had the mine that Bob has now in the 1920s. Do you recall a man mining up there in those years?

RZ: No, I sure don't.

RM: He even built a mill up there.

RZ: Oh did he? I know where it is, but I don't know who mined up there besides Bob.

RM: OK, then comes the R.O. Ranch, and we've talked about it. Then there's the Toquima Road.

RZ: That goes over to Moore's Creek, I imagine.

RM: Now where is Moore's Creek? I think I'm confused between Moore's Creek and Moore's Station.

RZ: Moore's Station is after you pass Warm Springs going to Ely.

RM: Oh yes. It's down that way, isn't it?

RZ: I've never been there or anything. Moore's Creek is across the valley on the east side.

RM: Oh, I see. It flows out of the Toquimas?

RZ: Yes. It's on that range of mountains. And probably the road that you're talking about goes over to Moore's Creek.

RM: Oh, maybe. I'm not sure. Then we come to South Twin; that's where Bob Wilson's mine is.

RZ: Yes.

RM: Does South TWin mean anything to you in terms of . . .

RZ: Only that we kept our cattle up there and used to go up there. My father had the range for a long time. And then we had it too, for quite a while . . . had North Twin.

RM: North Twin and South Twin?

RZ: Yes.

RM: Then the next ranch we come to is the Berg ranch, which you're on now.

RZ: That's right.

RM: OK. And I didn't get any farther down so you'll have to help me, but the next ranch is the Darrough ranch, isn't it?

RZ: Yes. Roger sits in between, but he just has property up there; it's not a real ranch. You've probably seen that big log house - that's Roger's. And then Darrough's is right next; you can see it.

RM: Yes; you can see the steam. Now, Roger Berg's place was just part of the original Berg ranch, wasn't it?

RZ: Yes.

RM: Did you remember where Will Berg got the ranch?

RZ: He bought it from a lady by the name of Hanna Logan. They used to live here years ago and he bought it from them.

RM: He purchased it in the teens didn't he?

RZ: Yes. I don't know exactly what year but . . .

RM: Can you give me some history on the Darrough ranch as you recall it?

RZ: Well, I don't know much about it. The brothers lived there –Lawrence and Doug and Luther - and they raised cattle there too. That's how they mostly made their living. Then their other brother moved out from Tonopah and helped for a while with the pool and they used to have dances and things like that. They had a hall there - well, the hall is still there. I guess they use it.

RM: That stone building?

RZ: No, it's not the stone building. The stone building used to be a bar and in between there and the others there's a dancehall; we used to have some great dances in there.

RM: Is that right? When you were a teenager?

RZ: Yes. Oh gosh, we'd dance sometimes till sunup. We had a lot of fun there.

RM: What were the occasions for the dances?

RZ: Nothing really. They just had dances. And they'd get this orchestra from Austin, Bert and Millie Acree, that would come out and play and play all night.

RM: Are they still living?

RZ: No. They're not.

RM: And who attended those dances?

RZ: The ranchers and people from Round Mountain and Manhattan. Sometimes they'd even come out from Tonopah.

RM: Would people then go for a midnight swim or something like that while the dance . . .

RZ: They sure did. And at that time they had a top on the swimming pool. It was covered, but then in later years they had a fire and it burned it pretty badly. They rebuilt the dressing rooms but they never did put a top back on so it's open air. But we could swim . . . well, they still swim some of the wintertime, I guess.

RM: Who was Laura Darrough married to? That'd be Grandpa Darrough, wouldn't it?

RZ: I should know his first name but I don't.

RM: I wonder if he homesteaded it?

RZ: I think so. I think that was about the time that my grandparents came up here. They always called him Grandpa Darrough. I never knew him or anything, but you'd hear people talk about him and it was always Grandpa Darrough.

RM: And Luther is the last of the boys.

RZ: Yes, he sure is.

RM: Then what's the next ranch down. Is that the Wine Glass?

RZ: Yes.

RM: And then what's after the Wine Glass?

RZ: Well, Carver's.

RM: What's the history on the Carver's ranch? What was Jean's . . .

RZ: His name was Ed Turner. He had that place right down below. Have you been down to Dick Carver's house?

RM: Yes.

RZ: Well, his house was right about in that area and he had a ranch there.

## CHAPTER SIX

RM: Rene, you say that Ed Turner had the Carver place and his house was right about where Dick Carver's house is now.

RZ: Right about in that area there somewhere. He had a house and he raised cattle and he had 2 daughters.

RM: Did the Turner girls stay in the area?

RZ: No they didn't. They left pretty early. They'd come and go, you know, but they weren't here all the time.

RM: Were they in your age group or were they older than you?

RZ: They were older. And he was really old. He used to come up to the house at the Wine Glass and visit us quite a bit, too. He was sort of a funny person, but he was .....

RM: In what sense was he funny?

RZ: Oh, I don't know, he just didn't make many friends and he didn't want many people around him. I think the only ones he ever visited were us.

RM: Is that right? And then Gerald Carver bought it from Turner?

RZ: Yes.

RM: And how big was the Turner ranch?

RZ: I don't have the faintest idea, but it wasn't very big - just a few cows and horses.

RM: And when did Gerald Carver come into the area?

RZ: Oh gosh, in the '40s sometime.

RM: What happened to Mr. Turner?

RZ: I don't remember. Something happened to him down there . . . We never did hear too much about it but he died right down there at the ranch.

RM: Is there another ranch on south of Carver's or is that the last one going down the valley between here and Round Mountain?

RZ: Well, there's George Manley's ranch. It's on the right-hand side off the . . .

RM: OK - on the west side of the highway.

RZ: Yes. That's the last ranch. Was the Manley ranch there when you were a child?

RZ: Oh yes. Jimmy Woods owned that place for a long, long time. He finally sold out and I don't know if there were people in between there or not, but then the Franciscos owned it for quite a while. Then Jean Kielhack bought it.

RM: Was it a large operation or a small one?

RZ: No, it was pretty small, too - a few cattle, a few sheep - it was small.

RM: And then what do you get next going toward Round Mountain?

RZ: Well, there aren't any more ranches. There are just all those trailers out there on the west side. You've seen them - they're scattered all over there.

RM Well, was that a ranch when you were a kid?

RZ: No. The only thing on that side was the George Manley ranch.

RM: OK, going on south, what's the next ranch you hit after those trailers?

RZ: Well, the Ranch, which is Hadley now, used to be a pretty good sized hay ranch. They raised nice hay there. But of course it's the town of Hadley now. Right next to Hadley there's another ranch where they raise hay. Dick Reason - I don't know them either.

RM: Was the I.C.T. there when you were a kid?

RZ: Oh no. It hadn't been there but 20 years or something like that.

RM: And then the one owned by Dick Reason is a new one too?

RZ: Yes, [it came in] about the same time. And he raises a lot of nice alfalfa there.

RM: What do you get next going south?

RZ: Well, the next one would be the Peavine Ranch.

RM: What do you remember about the Peavine Ranch?

RZ: Just that Bertolinos lived there. They were there in the '20s; they were there for a long time. They had a pretty nice place and they had cattle and a nice orchard. In fact they still have a pretty nice orchard. There were 2 ranches there - the lower ranch and the upper ranch.

RM: Are they both owned by Bertolinos?

RZ: No, I think Charlie Keough owned the lower one. And then a person by the name of Sayler used to live there too, and I think he was there before Keough was. I can't remember his first name. I don't know what year he lived there or anything, but I know he lived there. And then Bertolinos lived there at the upper ranch for quite a few years.

RM: Are there any other ranches going on down Ralston Valley toward Rye Patch?

RZ: No. I don't think there are any more.

RM: There are no ranches out of the mouth of Manhattan or in Rye Patch?

RZ: Oh, I guess they had a few people living there or something, but as far as a ranch goes, I'm sure there wasn't [one].

RM: How about on the other side going on down Smoky Valley to the San Antonio Valley?

RZ: You mean over the hill?

RM: Well, instead of going down toward Rye Patch you just keep going straight so that you would go to Lone Mountain.

RZ: There is the San Antone Ranch.

RM: Right down there where Anaconda . . .

RZ: The only one I know of would be Cloverdale and it's up the canyon on the right-hand side.

RM: Up the canyon where?

RZ: Where you turn . . . no, it'd be on this other side. Do you know where San Antone is?

RM: Sort of, yes.

RZ: Well, the only ranch I know of in that area is Cloverdale, but it's up the canyon a ways. You can't see it from the highway or anything.

RM: But it would be on the west side of those mountains?



RZ: Right. An old fellow by the name of Dave Stevens lived there and he used to come up to the Wine Glass and ride with my folks quite a bit - he even came up to the R.O. long years ago. Of course he's been gone for years.

RM: What's the status of that ranch now? Is it still an operating ranch?

RZ: I don't know now whether the R.O. owns it or not.

RM: Well now, how did the R.O. get to be so big and some of these other ranches stayed kind of small?

RZ: The ones who bought the R.O. had money to invest.

RM: And so they swallowed up the others.

RZ: The rest of us were all old-timers with no money.

RM: So it was outside money that came in and bought up the old-timers.

RZ: Right.

RM: People here seem to be very friendly and to get along well.

RZ: Oh yes.

RM: What do you think about that, and why is it? I mean, in other parts of the county they don't always get along so well.

RZ: Now, in a lot of places they don't, but everybody sort of works together around here and . . . I don't know, they just get along, that's all. I don't know any reason why they wouldn't, really. We've always got along with everybody around here.

RM: Where did the ranchers in the '20s and '30s ship their cattle? Did they ship them out of Tonopah?

RZ: Yes. Years ago when I was a kid our dad would drive them clear to Mina and ship them there on the railroad.

RM: How did he get to Mina? Did he go down the valley and then across Peavine?

RZ: Yes, right straight down the valley.

RM: And then across Peavine over to Mina?

RZ: Yes. Of course he'd already have some down there on his range, you know, and he'd just take them on down and ship them that way. They did that for quite a few years. And then in later years they'd truck them over to Fallon or the truck would come and get them. That's the way they usually do with Jim's - they just come here and pick them up. It's so much easier.

RM: Was the United Cattle and Packing Company up in this country? (That was O. K. Reed and his brother Ed and the Humphreys.)

RZ: I knew who O. K. Reed was but that's all I know.

RM: Did you know Jack Longstreet at all?

RZ: No. Again, I know the name but that's all.

RM: When you were a child growing up here where did people get their clothing? For instance, where did you get the clothes that you wore to school and so on?

RZ: Oh, from mail order catalogs. Once in a while we might go to Tonopah and shop a little bit because they always had a store or two in there. But no, we usually shopped for our stuff through the catalogs, and our mother made some of our clothes.

RM Which catalogs did you use?

RZ: Wards and Sears, and then there was one by the name Belles Hess - my mom sent for a lot of things there. It's just like they've got today. You couldn't go to Reno and shop, that's for sure.

RM: You would order these things from the catalog and they would send them to you in the mail?

RZ: Right. One thing about it - we were always lucky in this valley. We always got our mail every day. And we also always had telephones, which was another thing that was great. The other 2 valleys never did. RM You mean Monitor and Reese River?

RZ: Yes. They still don't, I guess. They might get the mail a couple of times a week or so in Reese River.

RM: But you had the mail delivered to your mailbox?

RZ: Yes. He'd go to Austin and back, so we always had our day's mail.

RM: Did your mail come out of Austin?

RZ: Our mail came from Round Mountain. Occasionally we'd get something from Austin.

RM: But it came through Tonopah?

RZ: Oh yes, we always had the mail and always had a telephone and always had a radio.

RM: Do you remember what stations you listened to?

RZ: No, I don't, but we listened to programs like "Amos and Andy" and "Fibber McGee and Molly" and those kind. And music, too. We always had music; we all liked music and we always had plenty of that.

RM: Was the reception clear?

RZ: It was good, yes. We had a small radio for a while.

RM: About 15 inches?

RZ: And then we got the big one - one of those cabinet deals. It sure was nice.

RM: Would the family gather around and listen in the evening?

RZ: You bet. We sure enjoyed our radio

RM: You touched on this a little bit, but when you were a child on the ranch growing up, what did you do in the evenings?

RZ: Oh, sit around, play cards and pop corn, make candy. And our mom would always cook us a great big pan of pine nuts. We'd sit there and eat pine nuts and visit. We didn't do anything special, but . . .

RM: Was there a special bedtime for you when you were growing up?

RZ: Oh, we always were in bed by 9:00. Always. Well, the rest of them all went to bed early too, because they had to get up so darned early and do chores and things like that.

RM: What did the kids do about bathing in the winter?

RZ: We had a bathtub and heated our water on the wood stove.

RM: Was that once a week or . . . ?

RZ: No. It was more than that - about 3 times a week. Our nother was pretty particular about that.

RM: How about the adults? How often did they bathe?

RZ: Oh, about the same. This was in our house. I don't know about anybody else.

RM: But even in the winter?

RZ: Oh yes; we always did.

RM: What kind of pots and pans did your mother have?

RZ: Oh, those Dutch ovens - and we had big old frying pans, too.

RM: Iron skillets?

RZ: Yes.

RM: And did you have iron pots?

RZ: Black ones were mostly what we had, and big old roasters, because we cooked a lot of roasts. I still remember my mom's great big roaster with the big long handle on it.

RM: And then what kind of dishes did you use?

RZ: Just plain old white dishes. They were all good heavy ones, though - and the cups were, too.

RM: Did you have glasses?

RZ: We had glasses too.

RM: And then what did the serving bowls look like?

RZ: Just like today's, only not fancy ones; just big heavy ones.

RM: And the same silverware.

RZ: Oh yes. Nothing fancy, that's for sure, in those days.

RM: And how did you heat the water on the stove?

RZ: Well, we had boilers. They're oval shaped. We had great big ones. We'd heat water and then dip it out into something else.

RM: I remember when I was a kid they had what they call reservoirs in stoves. I thought that was about as fancy as you could get.

RZ: Oh yes. We had those too. Down at the Wine Glass we had such a big kitchen. Up at the R.O. our kitchen was pretty small and we didn't have too much room, but down at the Wine Glass we had a good size kitchen and we had a great big cook stove with a reservoir inside to heat the water, too. And we always had our boiler on the back of the stove.

RM: How did your mother prepare most of the food?

RZ: Well, we ate a lot of fried meats because she cooked a lot of steaks for the guys who worked for us. And then roasts too - that was the main thing. That was about the limit of our neat.

RM: Did she feed the ranch hands?

RZ: Yes, she did. She fed them all.

RM: Did they eat at your table?

RZ: Yes. They ate right there.

RM: At a typical dinner meal how many people were eating at your table, would you say? There were you and your brother and your mother and father and . . .

RZ: Yes, and about 3 or 4 others. It'd depend on what time of year it was. If it was haying season we'd always have a few extras, at roundup time they'd have an extra cowboy or two to help. But we always had a table full.

RM: So it was a big job for her to be doing all that cooking.

RZ: Yes, you bet.

RM: What did a typical breakfast consist of when you were growing up?

RZ: Oh gosh, everything. She'd fry steak and fry potatoes and eggs and either biscuits or pancakes - just a big breakfast.

RM: What time would she get up to start this breakfast?

RZ: She got up about 5:00.

RM: And what time would she turn in at night?

RZ: Well, about 9:00. We always ate dinner about 6:00 at night. And then by the time you washed dishes you'd be through and then you'd sit around for a little while and . . .

RM: Did you kids have to help with the chores?

RZ: Oh, you bet we did. We'd milk cows and help feed the animals and we always had pigs and chickens to feed.

RM: Did you have to do the dishes and set the table?

RZ: We sure did. We had our jobs to do and we did them, too.

RM: What did you use for bedding in those days? Did you have sheets or did you use those flannel kind of sheets?

RZ: We had the flannel blankets; they called them sheet/blankets in those days and they were heavier.

RM: And you used those because they were warm?

RZ: Yes. And on real cold nights if it was real cold back in our bedrooms, our mom would heat these flat irons and wrap them in towels or something and put them in the beds and warm them up. Gee, it was so nice to go to bed and put your feet on those irons.

RM: What kind of mattresses did they have?

RZ: We had regular cotton mattresses.

RM: And what were the blankets made out of?

RZ: They made their own blankets - they were quilts.

RM: So you would have some quilts on your beds. There'd be several in the winter, wouldn't there?

RZ: Oh yes. Sometimes you couldn't even hardly turn over. All the women made their quilts.

RM: What did you use for pillows?

RZ: We had feather pillows.

RM: Did any of the people use feather mattresses?

RZ: I guess some of them did, but we never did. I don't think I'd like them, but . . .

RM: The people in the valley were not religious were they?

RZ: No.

RM: Did they believe in God, or were they just . . .

RZ: Well, sure they believed in God. They had their own way of believing, you know. But there just weren't any churches.

RM: Were there Bibles in the homes?

RZ: Yes, my mother had a Bible. She certainly did. In fact I've still got her old Bible someplace put away. I think everybody in those days kept a Bible. I know both my grandmothers had Bibles.

RM: You mentioned the Indians. Can you recall anything about the Indians other than what you've already said?

RZ: Well, they pretty well stayed by themselves but they were hard workers and they got along really well with my folks. The only thing was, once in a while on payday - not always but once in a while - our dad would pay Bisk and he would go out and get drunk. He'd go to town and buy some liquor and get real drunk; then he'd get mean. A lot of Indians are mean when they get drunk. And he'd go and try to beat up on his wife, Dora (Birdie was Dora's sister), and our dad would have to get him and lock him in the cellar. He would leave him there until he sobered up.

RM: And then he was OK?

RZ: And then he was fine again for months. But boy, when he'd decide to get drunk he got so mean. Dora'd come down after our dad and she'd get him to lock him up . . .

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RM: But he didn't attack whites - he only attacked his wife?

RZ: Just his wife. I can still see those Indian ladies down there. They were real good help with my mom. They helped her with the dishes and the washing and . . .

RM: Whose job was it to chop the wood for the stove in the house? Did your mother do that or was that the man's job?

RZ: No, that was a man's job. Our dad would do it sometimes and if he had a hired man, he would do it. My mom had plenty to do in the house.

RM: And then did you always get a supply of wood in the fall for the winter?

RZ: Oh yes. Our dad would go out and gather wood, he and whoever was working for him. There was a fellow who lived up town there named Duke, and he had a great big old saw and that's one of the things he did for a living. He'd bring it down home and stay there for several days and saw our wood for us.

RM: Did he saw by hand or was it a power saw?

RZ: No, a power saw. He had a gas engine on it. We'd have piles of wood - I can still remember them. Well my gosh, we'd have 2 stoves going all winter and even all year, because that's what we cooked on too. But of course more so in the wintertime when it was cold. We used a lot of wood.



RM: Did you ever use coal?

RZ: In later years we used coal. I know when I moved up here we used coal for a while. But, I don't know, it's so dirty to use. I'd rather have the wood.

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